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16 February 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Administration)**SUBJECT:** National Security Medal

1. President Truman's letter of January 19 authorizing the DCI to award the National Security Medal was addressed "Dear Mr. Director". Since General Smith was then Director and his name appears on the bottom of the letter, the question has been raised whether the delegations of authority in the letter ran to him personally or to the office of the Director. I think the background set forth below clearly establishes that the intent was to delegate the authority to the Director as an office, not as an individual.
2. As you know, the Executive Order intentionally contained no mention of CIA or the DCI, nor did the regulations issued thereunder by the President. The Executive Secretary of the National Security Council was designated in both the order and the regulations to approve the design and to receive recommendations for awards. This was discussed repeatedly with Mr. Roger Jones, Assistant Director of the Bureau of the Budget, and was also discussed with Mr. Lay, Executive Secretary of the NSC. It was agreed that the clear purpose of all these documents was to provide for the medal and to assure that it would be awarded by the Director of Central Intelligence while, at the same time, no public mention would be made of CIA.
3. When we submitted drafts of the regulations to Mr. Roger Jones, he also asked us to submit a draft of the specific confidential authorization to the Director. This we did, and the draft was addressed to the Director of Central Intelligence. Mr. Jones called us on the morning of 19 January saying that the order and regulations had been signed and that the draft letter had been presented but would probably be rewritten on White House stationery. He told us that there was heavy pressure in the White House for last minute signature of documents and we could only hope that the letter would be signed before 20 January. The letter was redrafted in the White House in its present form and we can only assume that in the last minute rush an inexperienced person made this draft without giving thought to the difference between a general and special designation. Since all arrangements had been agreed on before, however, and since I understand General Smith had discussed them with President Truman, we see no reason to believe that President Truman intended in any way to limit the designation to General Smith personally. Subsequently, I sent a letter to the Executive Secretary of

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the National Security Council enclosing a copy of the President's letter and reminding him that as we had previously agreed, any recommendations received by him would automatically be referred to the DCI.

4. I trust this is sufficient to support the generality of the designation and to answer any further questions that may be raised in this connection.

LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

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